United Nations S/2003/679

# Security Council

Distr.: General
30 June 2003

Original: English

## Letter dated 30 June 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 25 June 2003, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

03-41331 (E) 010703

## Annex

### Letter dated 25 June 2003 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on Stabilization Force operations for May 2003 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

## Enclosure

### Monthly report to the United Nations on Stabilization Force operations

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 31 May 2003) there were just over 12,500 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

2. The overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable during the period under review.

#### Security

3. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) continues to contribute to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; collect weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest; and monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout the country.

4. The total number of items collected during the month under Operation Harvest included: 1,244 small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers); 282,824 rounds of ammunition less than 20 millimetres; 274 rounds of ammunition between 23 and 76 millimetres; 19 rounds of ammunition greater than 76 millimetres; 4,855 hand grenades; 568 mines; 288.2 kilograms of explosives; and 4,668 other items (mortars, mortar rounds, rifle grenades, attack rockets and hand-made ordnance). SFOR conducted another campaign this month to encourage weapons to be handed in voluntarily.

5. On 8 May, SFOR searched a house near Bijeljina and detained Dragan "Vaske" Vasiljevic, suspected of being the driver and bodyguard of Ljubomir Borovcanin.[1] Vasiljevic was questioned by SFOR and subsequently handed over to the Republika Srpska authorities. A computer and documents were confiscated during this operation.

6. During another search, carried out on 8 May, of a house in Rogatica, SFOR discovered radio equipment being used to monitor SFOR frequencies. More radio equipment was found in a second building, together with illegal weapons and ammunition. SFOR confiscated all the radio equipment as well as the weapons and ammunition and is carrying out an investigation to find those responsible for the monitoring.

#### Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. On 30 April, the State Border Service and the Director of Civil Aviation signed an agreement restoring the use of Tuzla airfield for SFOR and civil aviation use. The newly redesignated Tuzla International Airport received its first commercial flight on 10 May, after having been closed since September 2001.

8. On 8 May, the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM) adopted amendments to the Book of Rules on SCMM Operations and the Book of Rules on Internal Organization and Systematization of the SCMM Secretariat.

9. The SCMM Secretary-General informed the press that SCMM intended to ask the Council of Ministers to invest in the SCMM secretariat full Defence Ministry responsibilities and to include a seat for the SCMM Secretary-General with voting privileges in the Council of Ministers. SFOR is responsible for the State-level

military doctrine initiative to help Bosnia and Herzegovina qualify for NATO Partnership for Peace status. The overarching doctrine document was completed at a workshop on 15 May and is awaiting endorsement by SCMM.[2]

10. During the period under review, SFOR monitored 256 training and movement activities: 88 of the Republika Srpska Army (VRS) and 168 of the Army of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (VF). SFOR monitored 365 mine-clearance activities: 117 of VRS and 248 of VF. SFOR also carried out 47 inspections and verification of weapons storage sites: 19 of VRS and 28 of VF.

**Cooperation with international organizations**

11. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations working in-theatre.

12. On 20 May, Carla del Ponte visited Sarajevo to oversee the preparations by the State Court to try lower-level cases of indicted war criminals, with a view to transferring such cases from the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to the Bosnian authorities during the summer of 2004. She held talks with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency, the Council of Ministers, the State Prosecutor, the High Representative and the Stabilization Force Commander.

**Outlook**

13. The security situation is expected to continue to be stable. Progress is being made in normalization in several areas: for example, in the opening of Tuzla airport, in military reform and in the response of the local population and police to Operation Harvest.

*Notes*

[1] Mr. Borovcanin is currently under indictment by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

[2] The Common Military Doctrine Working Group (made up of representatives of SCMM, the Ministry of Defence and leaders of VRS and VF) approved the new document on the overarching doctrine, which brings together the three documents relating to doctrine previously approved. The new document provides common terms for the protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity; peace support operations; and military assistance to civil authorities. Although this is the first document of its kind, it does not address some of the controversial issues which the military authorities will have to deal with in the coming months.